Name:

*Mr. Tiénou-Gustafson & Mr. Bielmeier*

Geometry, Period

Due Date: Mon, 3 Nov 2014

**Geometry**

**Homework**



**Election Week!** Tuesday, November 4th, is election day! It’s not a presidential election, so not nearly as many people vote. But it is still a very important election. And there is a lot of math in the news every election season.

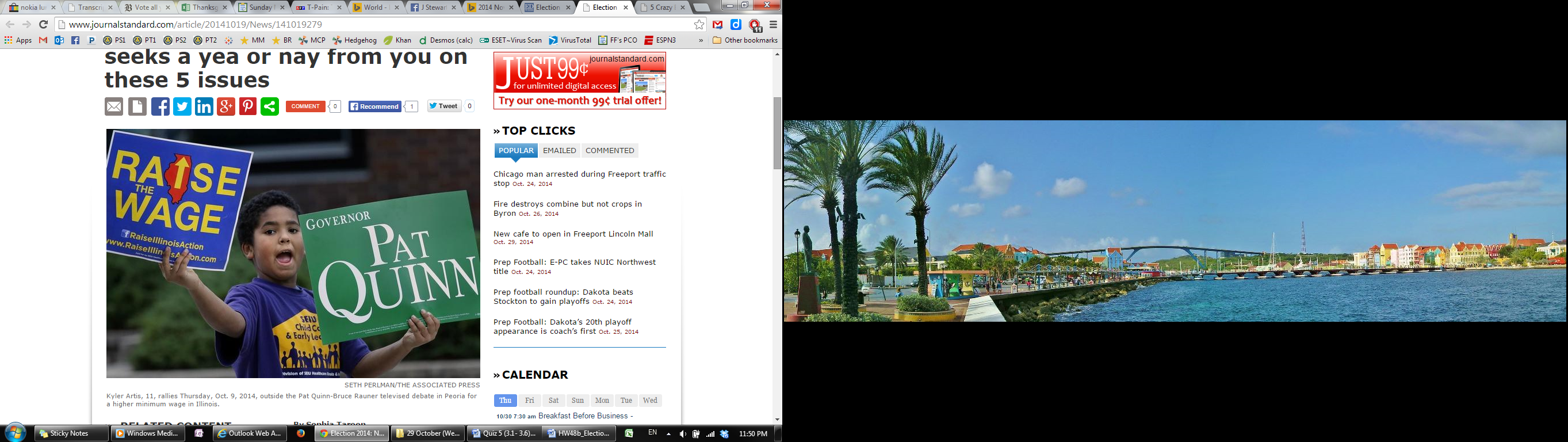
**Pre-reading questions:** Answer these questions as best you can without looking online or asking for help. You will not be penalized for not knowing everything, but you must use complete sentences to explain.

1. What **positions or offices** are on this ballot? List all that you know:

1. What **issues** are on this ballot?

1. What is the issue or office **you think is** **most important** in this election?
2. What are **two possible outcomes** for this issue or position?

1. Who do you know (outside Muchin) that is **voting** in this election?



**Election 2014: November ballot seeks a yea or nay   
from you on these 5 issues**

Read more: <http://www.journalstandard.com/article/20141019/News/141019279#ixzz3Hh9448aK>

**By Sophia Tareen, The Associated Press**  
Posted Oct. 19, 2014

When Illinois voters cast ballots for the November election, they will have a rare opportunity to weigh in on nearly half a dozen hot-button issues.

In a practice more common in California and some other states, Illinoisans will wade through five ballot questions. The most we have seen before is three, at least since 1970, according to available state records.

Lawmakers say the nonbinding questions are aimed at taking the public’s temperature so they know how to proceed in Springfield. But at least some of the measures also have a political purpose, as part of a coordinated campaign by Democrats to boost turnout for the midterm election.

The list of questions could’ve been longer, but attempts fell short to include questions about term limits — an effort backed by Republicans — and altering Illinois’ political redistricting process. The initiatives haven’t had as visible a promotion as the contested races, and some political experts believe voters may just skip them.

“These are not part of Illinois political culture,” said David Yepsen, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. “Voters aren’t used to it.”

Here’s a look at the measures.

**1. Birth control**

Democrats pushed an advisory ballot measure in the final days of the spring session that asks if insurance companies should cover birth control.

Illinois has had such a law since 2003, but supporters say widespread voter approval will ensure future protections. As evidence, they cite the U.S. Supreme Court’s June decision saying employers with religious objections could opt out of a federal rule requiring that insurers cover contraceptives.

Republicans say the last-minute ballot measure is an obvious ploy to boost Democratic votes, especially since it’s already law.

Two Chicago-based political action committees have taken to social media to garner support: Planned Parenthood Illinois Action and Save Birth Control in Illinois, which says it’s trying to lay groundwork for legislation requiring employers to provide notice to employees about exclusions in insurance plans’ contraceptive coverage.

**2. Millionaire tax**

This measure, sponsored by Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan, proposes charging Illinoisans who make more than $1 million a 3 percent income tax surcharge to raise money for education.

An attempt to pass the tax as legislation stalled. Democratic leaders then posed the idea as a nonbinding ballot question to gauge public support.

The Internal Revenue Service says Illinois had 14,500 tax returns in 2011 from households where adjusted gross income was at least $1 million. Madigan has said the tax would raise $1 billion annually.

Republicans say the measure is purely political. Bruce Rauner, a venture capitalist challenging Gov. Pat Quinn, earned $61 million in 2013.

**3. Minimum wage**

This nonbinding ballot question asks voters whether Illinois should increase its $8.25-an-hour minimum wage to $10 by 2015, parallel to a Democratic effort to push the issue nationwide.

Sponsors are hoping to use the results to renew a legislative push for approval.

It’s been a major issue in the governor’s race. Quinn has vowed to raise it, despite previous attempts falling short. Rauner at one point said he wanted to cut the state’s minimum wage but has changed his stance, now saying he’d favor raising it with other reforms.

Business groups oppose an increase, saying it’ll kill jobs.

**4. Voters’ rights**

Voters will be asked to change the state constitution to prevent people from being denied the right to register or vote based on race, ethnicity or sexual orientation, among other things.

The measure had bipartisan support, including among top Democrats and Republicans.

It’s aimed at ensuring that Illinois doesn’t adopt voter identification laws like those passed in several states since the beginning of 2013. Republicans said they pushed those laws to prevent voter fraud. Democrats say fears of fraud are overblown and the laws are attempts to suppress votes favorable to them.

**5. Victims’ rights**

This question asks whether crime victims should have more rights protected by the constitution during court proceedings and criminal trials. The Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights would ensure that they have information about hearings and plea negotiations, access to restitution and protections against alleged perpetrators.

The proposal is patterned on Marsy’s Law, which California voters approved in 2008 after the murder of a college student.

Lawmakers overwhelmingly approved putting the measure on the ballot. But among opponents was House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie, who said such standards could slow trials and should be dealt with through laws, not the constitution.

Democratic Attorney General Lisa Madigan backs it, saying crime victims are “owed a voice.”

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Which of these issues do you think is **most important**? Why? What is your position on the issue?

2. How much would the millionaire tax affect Governor Pat Quinn financially? (Give a dollar amount.)

3. Based on the number of millionaires in Illinois, what is the ***minimum*** amount that the “millionaire tax” would raise every year for education? Show your work!

4. For people earning minimum wage, how much would they make now in one week (5 days of 40 hours each), and how much would they make under the raised minimum wage?

5. How much more would a minimum-wage earner make in one year with the proposed higher minimum wage (before taxes)? There are 52 weeks in a year; remove two weeks for holidays, vacations, and sick days.

6. The 2014 Federal Poverty Line (FPL) Guidelines set the poverty level for a family of four at $23,850. If a family of four had one income earner, would working full-time at the **current** minimum wage be above the poverty line? Would the proposed **higher** minimum wage?

*If not*, what minimum wage would allow someone to earn a *living wage* (above poverty) for a family of four?

7. Is there anyone (18 or older, including recent MCP grads!) who you can encourage to vote base on the importance of the issues & offices?